

# WBOE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## January 17, 2019

**Present:** Lynn Piascyk, Chair; Margaret Hamilton, Maegan Genovese, Joyce Shavers, Board Members; Bob Gilbert, Superintendent; Analisa Sherman, Assistant Principal (joined meeting at 4:55 PM); Heather Minardi, Teacher and Salem (Alane) Vouras, community.

Ms. Piascyk called the meeting to order (4:30 PM).

Public Comment – None

**STEAM Presentation:** Ms. Minardi presented an overview of STEAM as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The three dimensions of the Science standards include Science and Engineering Practices, disciplinary core ideas and cross-cutting concepts. Ms. Minardi highlighted the recent inclusion of the Arts (humanities, language arts, dance, drama, music, visual arts, design and new media) into the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) scientific concepts. STEAM is a philosophy of education that embraces teaching skills and subjects that resemble real life situations through interdisciplinary learning. The primary focus is to ensure students become creative and critical thinkers, problem-solvers and are prepared for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. The curriculum emphasizes collaboration, communication, research, problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity at each grade level. Education is no longer about memorizing facts. It has become about learning how to think critically, evaluate information and apply knowledge, research and skill development to problem solve. Further, STEAM embraces the 4 C's identified as key components in 21<sup>st</sup> century education – Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Communication.

Current student objectives include enrichment clusters in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, MAG student workshops and designated class time in the STEAM lab for all grades. Professional support for teachers includes monthly meetings with grade level teams through PLC's (professional learning communities), NGSS Training sessions with K-2 teachers and in-house professional development activities with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.

Superintendent Gilbert commented on the value of having a dedicated STEAM position as well as a dedicated space in the building.

### **Future Topics:**

The following schedule of dates and topics has been tentatively set for future Curriculum Committee Meetings:

- Technology (Part 1) – February 14
- Technology (Part 2) – March 14
- TBD – April 11
- TAG – May 9

Social Studies will be discussed in September or October after summer curriculum work.

**Technology Presentations:** It was requested that the following items be included in the Technology presentations:

- Roles and responsibilities of the Technology Staff
- What is being covered in Technology and the criteria for those skills
- Curriculum Review Cycle
- The use of technology in the classroom
- Percentage of time students spend with Technology (iPads, computers) in school
- Online resources and Data Privacy Rules

Meeting Adjourned: 5:53 PM

The next meeting is February 14 at 4:30 PM.